

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00

/093 W

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O 081545Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2464

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 5312

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, SWA

SUBJECT: STATEMENT FROM NAMIBIAN CHURCHES

REF: PRETORIA 5294

ON SEPTEMBER 8, WE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING CABLE SIGNED BY THE UNITED
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, DIOCESE OF
WINDHOEK, ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NAMIBIA AND SENT FROM THE CHRISTIAN CENTER

OF WINDHOEK: BEGIN TEXT:

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF A STATMENT ISSUED HERE TODAY BY
CHURCHES WHOSE MEMBERSHIP COMPRISES OVER HALF OF THE POPULATION.
NAMIBIAN CHURCHES CALL FOR PRAYER AND APPEAL TO ALL PARTIES AND
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COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE WESTERN SETTLEMENT PLAN FOR NAMIBIA
8 SEPTEMBER 1978.WE HEREBY CALL UPON ALL CHRISTIANS TO PRAY MOST
URGENTLY AT THIS TIME FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION
TO THE WESTERN SETTLEMENT PLAN IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

.
WE PRAY FOR AN AGREEMENT THAT WILL BRING ABOUT A CEASEFIRE, AND THAT
THE LORD WILL THUS SPARE US FROM A TRAGIC BLOODBATH AND GURESOME

EVENTS SUCH AS THOSE NOW FREQUENTLY EXPERIENCED IN RHODESIA. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE FEEL IT OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO EXPRESS OUR DISQUIET AT REPEATED REPORTS THAT ELECTIONS WILL STILL BE HELD IN NAMIBIA THIS YEAR. THE WESTERN PROPOSALS CLEARLY SPECIFY A SEVEN MONTH

PROCESS FROM THE TIME THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT IS ACCEPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL UNTIL THE ELECTIONS ARE HELD. ATTEMPTS

TO SQUEEZE THE STATE PROCEDURE THROUGH IN HALF THE ALLOTTED TIME CAN ONLY END IN THE ABORTION OF THE WHOLE ELECTORAL PROCESS. PARTIES BOTH TO THE RIGHT AND TO THE LEFT OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THE NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING THE SEVEN MONTH PERIOD.

WE SHOULD ALSO LIKE IT TO BE KNOWN THAT WE SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL THAT EXPERIENCED POLICE OFFICERS WOULD BE SENT TO NAMIBIA TO CHECK INTIMIDATION AND AGITATION FROM ANY QUARTER

DURING THE ELECTIONS, AND TO MONITOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE. THE SECRETARY GENERAL STIPULATES THAT THESE EXPERIENCED MEN WILL BE PART OF THE CIVILIAN COMPONENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL. OVER THE PAST DECADE THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS OF MISCONDUCT ON THE PART OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE. WITHOUT SUCH A PRESENCE WE WOULD THEREFORE FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ASSURE

THE LAW-ABIDING POPULATION OF THEIR RIGHT OF FREE EXPRESSION, SECURITY, AND FREEDOM FROM THREAT. WE ARE ALSO FRANKLY DISTRESSED
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AT ATTEMPTS TO CUT THE UN MILITARY COMPONENT DOWN TO LESS THAN THAT REQUIRED BY THE UN MILITARY EXPERTS. AFTER ALL, THIS IS A VAST COUNTRY,

AND THE UN FORCE HAS BEEN GIVEN THE UNEVIABLE AND ENORMOUS TASK OF, INTER ALIA, PROVIDING SURVEILLANCE OF THE BORDERS, PREVENTING INFILTRATION, AND ALSO MONITORING BASE CAMPS AND THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. WE TRUST THAT MR. AHTISAARI MADE HIS CALCULATIONS ON THE

BEST OF INFORMATION AND REMAINS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN THE IMPARTIALITY OF HIS TASK FORCE. WE, THEREFORE, FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT

IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT HE SHOULD HAVE AT HIS DISPOSAL THE MANPOWER AND SUPPORT SERVICES WHICH HE NEEDS TO PERFORM HIS FUNCTION ADEQUATELY. IT SEEMS TO US TOO OPTIMISTIC TO SAY THAT IF

THERE IS A CEASEFIRE SUCH A FORCE WILL NOT BE NEEDED. IN THE PAST, WE HAVE REPEATEDLY SEEN HOW EXTENSIVE PANIC AND DISRUPTION CAN BE CAUSED BY VERY SMALL GROUPS WHO BREAK THE DISCIPLINE OF THEIR COMMANDERS

WE MUST ALSO RECKON THAT THERE ARE GROUPS AT LARGE WHO HAVE OBTAINED POWERFUL ARMAMENTS AND WHO MAY BE NOTHING MORE THAN THIEVES AND

ROBBERS WITHOUT CONSCIENCE. WE, THEREFORE, CANNOT SEE ANY REASON TO
DENY THIS COUNTRY ALL THE SECURITY WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS
IS ABLE TO OFFER. SECURITY FOR ALL MUST BE THE FIRST PRIORITY,
IRRESPECTIVE OF THE COSTS. AS WE PRAY FOR A SUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENT,
WE THEREFORE CALL UPON ALL PARTIES TO SHOW GOOD FAITH AND
RESPONSIBILITY, AND NOT TO ACT IN ANY WAY WHICH CAN REVERS THE
GREAT STRIDES WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN MADE TOWARDS A PEACEFUL
ACCOMMODATION OF ALL PARTIES IN NAMIBIA. MAY THE LORD OF PEACE
HIMSELF GIVE YOU PEACE AT ALL TIMES AND IN ALL WAYS
(2THESSALONIANS 3:16). END TEXT.
EDMONDSON

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